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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9141  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 2730  
RUEHJL/AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY 0075  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0669  
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RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 0454  
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY 0018  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY 0588  
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY 0069  
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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [SENV](#) [EAID](#) [UNCSD](#) [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS OPPOSES ZIMBABWE'S BID FOR CSD 16 CHAIR

REF: STATE 58046

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) The GONL supports the EU's position opposing a Zimbabwean Chair for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Econoff delivered reftel points May 3, and followed up May 10 with Peter van der Vliet, Head of Political and Legal UN Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Van der Vliet told Econoff the EU is doing "all it can" and that the Germans had demarched 30 capitals promoting the EU position. So far, van der Vliet said, only Singapore was willing to "distance itself" from the South Africa Development Community's nomination of Zimbabwean Environment Minister Francis Nhema for CSD Chair.

2. (SBU) Van der Vliet said the EU "would not hesitate" to request a vote and subsequently oppose Zimbabwe. He welcomed cooperation with the U.S. and possible consultations in New York. "We are like minded," he said, adding that the EU and U.S. should discuss what a possible Zimbabwean Chair would mean for their participation in CSD 16. Van der Vliet warned

against a boycott of the CSD. He said this precedent would encourage others to suggest objectionable candidates to "spoil" progress and participation in the Committee.

ARNALL